

This is BILK Nr. 73 for September 1996. BILK is published bi-monthly by Ulrich Magin. ATTENTION - NEW ADDRESS: Augustastr. 85, 76437 Rastatt, Germany.

BEHEMOTH

- Loch Ness: A number of new sightings have been reported in Nessletter (Rip Hepple, 7 Huntschieldford, St John's Chaple, Weardale, Co Durham, DL13 1RQ, UK) and Andreas Trottmann's Loch Ness Newscipping Service (A. Trottmann, Les Pretresses, 1586 Vallamand VD, Switzerland). I give brief summaries of the cases:
 - September 1995: Rob Naylor photographs something (but what exactly - the photo is typically fuzzy) opposite Urquhart Castle (Nottingham Evening News, 26. Sept. 1995; via A. Trottmann)
 - March 1, 1996: John Northcote, Fort Augustus, was looking at the loch when he spotted a moving "large brown mass". (Nessletter 126, p. 3)
 - March 14, 1996: Gary Campbell, parking at Abriachan, observed a "black hump". (Nessletter 126, p. 2) He then founded the Loch Ness Monster Fan Club, covered in recent Bilks and Nessletter 126.
 - April 9, 1969: a black hump observed by tourists near Fort Augustus (Nessletter 126, p. 3; Inverness Courier, 16.4.1996; via A. Trottmann). Identified as probably boat wake by Rip Hepple.
 - May 1995, or before: Jonathan Murphy and a film crew on location to shoot a comercial with a Nessie dummy, spot and film "something a bit spooky" in the loch. The film, however, shows nothing. (Inverness Courier, 17 May 1996; via A. Trottmann)
 - June 13, 1996: Dave and Kathie Munro and 16 further persons see "a wave moving at great speed across Foyers Bay". (Nessletter 126, p. 3; Inverness Courier, 18.6.1996; via A. Trottmann)
- Lake Tianchi, China: A video-tape was shot of the Lake Tianchi-monster, in summer 1994 (The INFO Journal 75, p. 42) Thise is an older report, but there is a steady stream of new ones. Early in August 1996, there were additional information on sightings and expeditions: Strange creatures reminiscent of Nessie dwell in 200 metres deep Lake Tianchi, a vulcanic lake in Jilin province at China's border to Corea. In August, an international expedition was to visit the lake trying to find the truth about the monster Photographer Wang Ying managed to snap four of the creatures on July 4, 1996. China's official news agency Xinhua said there were 200 spectastores present when the dinosaur-like creatures froliced in the lake, throwing up waves of "up to two metres/7ft". Local authorities have collected sifghting reports going back to the beginning of the century. (Ludwigsburger Kreiszeitung, 8. August 1996; Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 8. August 1996; Welt, 8. August 1996; Bietigheimer Zeitung, 8. August 1996)
- Bibliography: Short note on the "Drachenstich" at Furth im Wald, Germany, an annual festival where a large dragon-modell is killed by a brave knight (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 12. August 1996, p. 22) -- Short note on the new "Nessie Fan Club", founded by Kathy and Gary Campbell (Tip der Woche 1. July 1996, p. 7) -- Monster in a gorge in China's Hubei province (The INFO Journal 75, p. 42) -- Lake Van Monster (INFO Journal 75, p. 43) -- Allegation that surgeon's photo of Nessie is a fake refuted (INFO Journal 75, p. 43)

LEVIATHAN



- Francois de Sarre has sent me an article, written by him, from "Challenge", a Berlin magazine, 2/1996, pp. 3-8, in which he concludes, with LeBlond and Bousfield, that a strange half-digested carcass found inside a sperm-whale's stomach at Naden Harbour, British Columbia, in 1937, was a true and unidentified sea serpent. In contrast to the Canadian Caddy-authorities, however, de Sarre thinks the creature is not a repti-

le, but a mammal, identical to Heuvelman's merhorse. I always found this particular find looked just like any photo of semi-decomposed whale or shark that I have ever seen, but then, I am no zoologists. Funny, however, that any sea serpent carcass we have remains of, can be positively identified, while all the "true unknowns" are only known from photos and reports. Could it be that if we had remains of the Naden Harbour Caddy, it would long have been identified? Just a thought...

- Malaysia: The situation is similar here. Malaysian fishermen caught a semi-decomposed carcass of a sea serpent in May 1996 off Langkawi. Malaysian scientists identified it as a killer whale. (Fortean Times 89, p. 13) While our first thought should be that it was a shark, Karl Shuker, from some details on the fins, concludes it's identity cannot be defined with certainty. If only these fishermen had brought back the thing.

- News on recent Caddy-sightings, see The INFO Journal 75, 1996, p. 46

KRAKEN

- Expeditions fishing for giant squids, The INFO Journal 75, p. 46

USO

- Further articles on the UFOs over Inverness and the Moray Firth in the Inverness Courier, 7.5.1996, reprinted in Andreas Trottmann's Loch Ness Newsclipping Service.

MARINE LIFE

- The story about porpoises attacking dolphins in the Scottish Moray Firth was widely reported in the German press after it had been covered in the August edition of Kosmos.

- Dolphins saved an English tourist from a shark attack of Israel (Ludwigsburger Kreiszeitung, 26. Juli 1996, p. 17; Bietigheimer Zeitung 26. Juli 1996, p. 6)

- There was a shark panic along the Italian Adriatic coast after fishermen had observed gigantic, 15ft long sharks. (Bietigheimer Zeitung 24. July 1996) Two days later, officials explained there had been no gigantic sharks at all, only a mistaken observation of a sunfish (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 26. July 1996 p. 8) Anyway, a shark that size would have been a basking shark, harmless to fishermen and bathers alike.

BRIEF NOTES:

- Lake Constance, Germany: A pelican has appeared on the lake in August 1996. This creature is not usually found in Germany, so zoologist concluded that - you guessed it - it has either escaped from a zoo or private menagery or found it's way to the lake from it's more usual habitat, southern Europe. (Bietigheimer Zeitung, 29. August 1996, p. 15)

- Venice, Italy: Venice is not only a city of channels, about a dozen islands where buildings once stood are now well under water, so that there is a mini-Atlantis of abbey, castle, house and temple-ruins below the sea around the city. A working group called Consorzio Venezia Nuova will try to locate these submarine ruins. Expert Luigi Fozzati has already drawn the first archaeological map of Venice's lagoon. Their first sensational find was an ancient abbey on the lost island of San Marco which sank below the waves after mediaeval times. Bronze Age finds and Roman ruins have also been discovered. (Welt, 13. March 1996, p. 12)

That is all for today. Hope you liked it - your news and views are always welcome.